United States Internal Revenue Office,
No. 449 MAIN STREET.
JOHN N. BARBOUR, Deputy Collector.

Cambridgeport, March 20th 1865

Wm L. Garrison

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Esteemed Friend

Now that the Lord has shown to the world the triumphant progress of the glorious principles of eternal right, we who have passed the half century, may look back upon the memories of the past, and while we are lost in wonder at the mighty changes, that have left their impress upon all around us, perhaps are privileged to linger a little upon the experiences of our early manhood, while engaged in the mighty conflict, that has culminated in the emancipation of an oppressed race. I think that I told you some ten or more years ago, of the first interview I had with you. when you was hunting for a house or hall in which you could deliver your first Lecture against Slavery, in Boston. it was just after your release from the Jail in Baltimore, in which you had been imprisoned for telling the truth about Todd.

Exerted myself somewhat to obtain for you the First Baptist meeting house in Hanover Street. where I then attende

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and hoped to be successful. till my good uncle the deacon of that church, was informed by those in whom he had confidence, that you were crazy". When, some months (I think) after that time it was announced that you were to speak in what was called "Infidel Hall" I went to hear what the "crazy man" had to say; because the few minutes of interview I had with you at my store ~~then~~, had opened in my mind and heart emotions, to which I had before been a stranger, and you will not think I mean to flatter you, when I say, that the first impression made upon my mind from my intercourse with you, were such as commanded the respect of a young man, who had a desire to do right, and in whose heart, there was not a hope never has been through all the fearful conflict a single emotion or sympathy that could tolerate for one moment the accursed system of oppression, that then developed itself in American Slavery. I listened to your first address spoken there, and then and there with the inflexibility of a "crazy man" who dont know that he is crazy, I pledged myself to myself and my God, that henceforth I knew nothing but unmitigated hostility to the whole system

If in the long period that has intervened, in my intercourse as a merchant, as a citizen, as a friend

to & relative of Slaveholders. I have ever uttered a word of excuse for the concern, I am unconscious of it and hope I may be forgiven. I have (as I know you have now) so many congratulations from those who, in long gaped years, have abused and slandered me, that I have been looking back with some degree of interest, upon some particulars of my course.

My present object is to ask, if you can give to me the time of the delivery of that address, I think it must have been in 1828 or 1829 [1830] adding if you please any of the circumstances of your hunt after a place to lecture in, for I think, you told me, you applied for almost every meeting house in the City. I need not say that I congratulate you upon the results of your long continued & arduous struggle, and that you can see in the development of our governmental action, something to approve and sustain. Most certainly God has raised up and educated Abraham Lincoln to carry forward this mighty work. And when one sees the contrast between the man who 14 years ago was elected to fill the Presidential Chair and the one who now fills it with the education that God has forced upon him, wonders.

I did not intend to write more than half dozen lines when I commenced, but the subject opens upon the mind. We are now engaged in making a Freedman,

and Society — in which we hope to gather all denominations
While Slavery may be said to be legally dead, yet
our work has just begun — for we now have aids
to the poor victim of centuries of oppression —
and while we must hold our Government up Square
to the work and duty of its mission, we must be
ourselves willing to make further sacrifices of feeling
and property, but not of principle — Should you
be kind enough to furnish me with the Items I ask
you will understand it is not for publication &
that I do not wish this published

Yours for the right & the true

John N. Barbour.

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